

Mayor's Bicycle Advisory Council Public Meeting

June 17, 2009

What are some of the ways bicyclists learn about Metra's Bikes on Trains program and policy?

- **Web site** - A link from the home page of metrarail.com links to the Bikes on Trains program parameters. That page also provides a link to our general information page that also outlines the rules and regulations for bringing bikes aboard Metra, including how many bikes per rail line.
- **Bikes on Trains brochure** - This piece provides all the information that exists on the Bikes on Trains page on metrarail.com and is available at Metra stations, inserted into mail fulfillment, made available at transit events and other community forums, and distributed to bike shops throughout the region.
- **On-the-Bi-level passenger newsletter** - Available on the train, this newsletter regularly reminds passengers about the Bikes on Trains program.
- **Posters at stations** - Vivid, yellow posters that outline the Bikes on Trains program are displayed at Metra stations and on trains.
- **Information in schedules** - Metra's regular-sized schedules all have the Bikes on Trains program basics. The "mini's" include how many bikes are allowed on each train.
- **On trains and train platforms** - The "Voice of Metra" LED scrolling messaging gives details about the program. Designated bike cars have signs that identify them as such. Additionally, live announcements are made on platforms when trains are at bike capacity.
- **Word of mouth**



Bikes on Trains brochure

BIKES ON TRAINS

For 2009, **three bicycles** are allowed in the priority seating area of each accessible diesel rail car; **two** on each equivalent Electric car. The following number of bicycles can generally be accommodated on each designated train:

Union Pacific North, Northwest & West Lines	12 bicycles
Midwestern North & West Lines	9 bicycles
Rock Island District	9 bicycles
North Central Service	9 bicycles
SouthWest Service	9 bicycles
SNCF Railway	5 bicycles
Metra Electric*	8 bicycles

* All Electric cars accessible bicycle capacity may vary by number of cars per train.

Cyclists may not be able to board the train, or may be required to leave the train if priority seating is needed for passengers with disabilities.

Metra makes no assurance that space will be available for bicycles on designated bicycle trains (including late night trains). Cyclists will be accommodated on a first come, first serve basis and must stay in the same car with their bicycles at all times.

Weekend and Weekday Off-peak Trains

Individual cyclists must be at least 16 years old. Riders aged 12 through 15 must be accompanied by an adult. Children under 12 are not permitted.

Standard bicycles not exceeding 70 inches in length are permitted. Tricycles, tandems, motor, baby attachments, racing wheels or powered bicycles are prohibited.

Bicycles must be secured to the lower rail of hollow seats in the designated priority seating area with luggage straps or other devices supplied by the cyclist that will adequately secure the bicycle.

Train crews will make the final decisions regarding the ability to accommodate bicycles on each train. All cyclists must follow instructions of Metra train crews.

For 2009, bicycles are permitted on all weekday trains arriving in Chicago after 9:30 AM and leaving Chicago before 7:00 PM and after 7:00 PM, and on all weekend trains, with the following exceptions:

- Blue Fox (weekend ONLY - June 13 & 14)
- All days during the Taste of Chicago (June 16 - July 1)
- Lakeshore (August 7 - 9)
- Air & Water Show (August 11 & 12)
- Jack Fox (weekend ONLY - September 1 & 2)

For complete rules and regulations for bicycles, pick up a brochure at any Ticket Office or visit www.metrarail.com

Bikes on Trains poster

What are some other ways to get the word out?

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What information is *not* included that should be included on our Web site about Metra's Bikes on Trains program?

- **Included: rules and regulations** - The basic rules governing Metra's Bikes on Trains program are provided on metrarail.com, including times bikes are allowed, "black out" dates, number of bicycles per train per line and equipment necessary to secure the bicycle. It also includes clearly stated disclaimers.

Bicycles: Metra Rules & regulations for bicycles - 2009

GENERAL POLICIES:

1. Individual cyclists must be at least 16 years old. Riders aged 12 through 15 must be accompanied by an adult. Children under 12 are not permitted.
2. Only three bicycles per ADA car on each diesel train will be allowed in designated priority seating areas; two for each equivalent Electric car. For 2009 the following number of bicycles can generally be accommodated per train:

Union Pacific North, Northwest & West Lines	12 bicycles
Milwaukee North & West Lines	9 bicycles
Rock Island Line	9 bicycles
Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway	6 bicycles
North Central Service	9 bicycles
Southwest Service	9 bicycles
Metra Electric	8 bicycles*

** All Electric cars are accessible; bike capacity varies by number of cars per train.*
3. Standard bicycles not exceeding 70 inches in length will be permitted. Tricycles, tandems, trailers, bulky attachments, training wheels or powered bicycles are prohibited.
4. There is no additional charge for bicycles.
5. Train conductors will make the final decisions regarding the ability to accommodate bicycles on each train. All cyclists must follow instructions of Metra train crews.
6. Train crews are not required to assist with boarding bicycles; their primary responsibilities are for passenger safety and assisting those with disabilities.
7. The wheelchair lift will **not** be used to load or unload bicycles.
8. Cyclists must be considerate and allow all passengers (including those with mobility devices) to board and alight before carrying their bicycles on or off the train.
9. Cyclists may be required to leave the train if ADA space is needed for boarding passengers with disabilities. If cyclists are required to detrain prior to destination, passengers who purchased an on board cash fare will be given a refund by the conductor who issued same. Passengers riding on One-Way or Ten Ride tickets will have ticket returned with the following notation "Good for One Additional Ride."
10. Bicycles cannot block aisles or impede passenger movement. Cyclists must stay in the vicinity of their bicycles at all times.
11. In case of evacuation, bikes will be left on the train, clear of aisles and doors.

EXCEPTIONS:

12. Metra makes no assurances that space will be available for bicycles on designated bike trains (including late hour trains). Cyclists will be accommodated on a first come, first serve basis.
13. Bicycles are permitted on all weekday trains arriving in Chicago after 9:30 AM and leaving Chicago before 3:00 PM and after 7:00 PM, and on all weekend trains, with the following exceptions:
 - Blues Fest June 12 - 14 (weekend only; June 13 & 14)
 - All days during Taste of Chicago June 26 - July 5
 - Lollapalooza August 7 - 9
 - Air and Water Show August 15 - 16
 - Jazz Fest September 4 - 6 (weekend only; September 5 & 6)

BICYCLE STORAGE & CONDITIONS:

14. Bicycles must be kept clean and free of dirt and grease while aboard Metra trains. Bicycles that present a hazard to other customers or Metra facilities are prohibited.
15. Bicycles must be secured to the lower rail of folding seats in the priority seating area with long bungee cords (approximately 36" recommended) or other devices supplied by the cyclist which adequately secure the bicycle.
16. Folding bicycles in protective covers are permitted on all trains at all times but should not block train aisles or doorways.

http://www.metrarail.com/Special_Promotions/bikes_on_trains.html

~ Bikes and Transit ~ Barbara Nelson ~ 